

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01052 300952Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W
-----087320 310129Z /20

R 300927Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6671
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1052

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR IR
SUBJ: CIVILIAN SOVIET SPY'S EXECUTION POSTPONED

REF 77 TEHRAN 11263, TEHRAN 536

1. THE MILITARY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 29 THAT THE SHAH HAS "ISSUED ORDERS FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE EXECUTION" OF CONVICTED SOVIET SPY ALI NAQI RABBANI QUJDEH. ANNOUNCEMENT, CARRIED ON FRONT PAGES OF LOCAL PRESS, DID NOT PROVIDE REASON FOR POSTPONEMENT OR REVEAL IF DELAY AMOUNTS IN FACT TO COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE. QUJDEH'S DEATH SENTENCE WAS UPHOLD BY MILITARY COURT OF APPEALS ON JAN 15. UNDER IRANIAN LAW, UNLESS COMMUTED BY THE SHAH, SENTENCE SHOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT WITHIN TEN DAYS OF DECISION; JANUARY 25 PASSED, HOWEVER, WITHOUT ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUJDEH'S FATE.

2. COMMENT: THIS ACTION BY SHAH IS SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED GIVEN SWIFT EXECUTION OF MAJOR GENERAL MOGHARABI IN EARLIER SOVIET SPY CASE. ALTHOUGH OUR INFORMATION IN THIS INSTANCE IS LIMITED, WE BELIEVE THAT TWO INTERPRETATIONS ARE POSSIBLE. PERHAPS QUJDEH HAS BEEN REWARDED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 01052 300952Z

FOR COOPERATION WITH GOI AUTHORITIES (JOURNAL DE TEHRAN ARTICLE TODAY STATES THAT QUJDEH HAS ADMITTED THE SPY CHARGES AND HAS REVEALED THE NAMES OF FOURTEEN FOREIGNERS TO WHOM HE GAVE DOCUMENTATION). ALTERNATIVELY (OR IN ADDITION), THE SHAH PLANS EVENTUALLY TO COMMUTE THE SENTENCE AND PRESENT A COMPASSIONATE PUBLIC IMAGE ABROAD IN ATTEMPT TO COUNTER CRITICISM IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ESPIONAGE, EXECUTIONS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN01052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780045-0137
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978016/aaaaafbi.tel
Line Count: 63
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ad9363e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TEHRAN 11263, 78 TEHRAN 536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3769687
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVILIAN SOVIET SPY'S EXECUTION POSTPONED
TAGS: PINR, IR, (QUJDEH, ALI NAQI RABBANI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ad9363e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014